GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL AND MINES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1116
ANSWERED ON:26.11.2002
CLOSURE OF MINES OF HCL
VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR

Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to close down the Khetri Mines of the Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL) in Rajasthan;

(b) whether it is a fact that underground copper reserves are still available in huge quantity in the Khetri mines;

(c) whether the State Government has urged the Central Government not to close down the Khetri mines which is one of the biggest industrial units of mining and metal production;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to review their decision in the matter; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COAL AND MINES(SUSHREE UMA BHARTI)

(a) The Hindustan Copper Limited(HCL) has soughtpermission of the Government for closure of Khetri mine under Section 25(o) of the Industrial Dispute Act, 1947. Government of India, Ministry of Labour has not granted the permission for its closure so far.

(b) The ore reserves in Khetri mine including the available reserves below and around the mine is 59.79 Million Tonnes of 1.38% cu. However, the Geological reserve and Mineable reserve are 14.97 Million Tonnes of 1.13 % cu and 10.77 Million Tonnes of 1.15% cu respectively. The developed reserves constitute 0.37 Million Tonnes of 1.33% cu.

Cost of development and exploitation of reserves at Khetri Mine is high and the operation in the mine is unviable.

(c) to (e): Hon`ble Chief Minister, Government of Rajasthan has writtento the Hon`ble Prime Minister of India vide letters dated 3.6.2002 and 17.9.2002 requesting to reconsider the decision regarding closure of Khetri Copper Mine. The Hon`ble Minister of State for Coal and Mines in his reply dated 29.7.2002 has mentioned that since the operation of Khetri mine is highly uneconomical and there is no possibility of reviving this unit, there is no option but to close down the Khetri mine, and, therefore, it would not be possible to reconsider the decision.